## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2023

The Honorable Muriel Bowser Mayor District of Columbia 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20004

## Dear Mayor Bowser:

We write to urge you to immediately rename "Black Lives Matter Plaza" and remove the street painting that reads "Black Lives Matter" due to that movement's celebration of violent antisemitic terrorism.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists attacked Israel, murdering more than 1,300 innocent civilians and taking more than 100 hostages, including American citizens. Shockingly, the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement expressed support for the murderers. For instance, the Chicago BLM Chapter posted an image of a Palestinian terrorist paragliding into Israel to kill Jews with the caption, "I stand with Palestine." Further, the D.C. chapter of BLM posted that Israel is guilty of "apartheid," while sharing posts that cast doubt on the atrocities that took place on October 7, including the beheading of babies. Moreover, BLM Grassroots, BLM's main "on the ground assembly of chapters" and the ideological leader of BLM right now, also threw its support behind these murderous attacks.

These posts are meant to delegitimize Israel and rationalize brutal attacks on the Jewish people. It is hard to escape the conclusion that these statements are motivated by an ugly animus against the Jewish people. BLM Grassroots said the Hamas attack "must not be condemned but understood" as resistance to "75 years of settler colonialism and apartheid." Those 75 years account for the entire existence of the Jewish state.

You stated after the attacks that you "reject terrorism in all its forms" and that "antisemitism has no place in our institutions, our country, our world or our hearts." We wholeheartedly agree with this statement. We further believe that movements that celebrate violent anti-Semitism should not be honored by the government with a plaza, especially one located directly outside of our nation's White House.

BLM continues to openly celebrate the antisemitic Hamas terrorist attacks against Israel. This stance is irreconcilable with American values. America must clearly affirm its stance against antisemitism, wherever it appears. We therefore urge you to immediately rename the Black Lives Matter Plaza, to remove the associated street painting in the plaza, and to end the city's celebration of this terrorist sympathizer group.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

## Sincerely,

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Marco Rubio U.S. Senator

Rom Tillis

Thom Tillis U.S. Senator

Harsha Macelura

Marsha Blackburn U.S. Senator

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Bill Cassidy, M.D. U.S. Senator

Lindsey Graham

Lindsey Graham U.S. Senator

Rick Scott U.S. Senator

Josh Hawley U.S. Senator fin Banks

Jim Banks Member of Congress

Ralph Norman Member of Congress

Josh Brecheen Member of Congress

John Rose Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan Member of Congress

Ronny Jackson Member of Congress

C. Scott Franklin Member of Congress

C. Scott Framble:

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Steve Daines U.S. Senator

John H. Rutherford Member of Congress

Le Ho come

Gus M. Bilirakis Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik Member of Congress

Sal I Bully Carte

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter

Member of Congress

Flin M. Swant

Russell Fry Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa Member of Congress

Troy Nehls Member of Congress

Michael Waltz Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney Member of Congress

Claudia Jenney

Diana Harshbarger Member of Congress